

NAWMP Committee Response to the NSST Scoping meeting Report

The Plan Committee accepts the 4 recommendations contained in the report of the Scoping meeting report with the following clarifications:

The Plan Committee would like the NSST to place emphasis on the first two roles identified in the report, namely, provide technical input and recommendations to the Plan Committee on Plan implementation, and, identify methods for biological planning and evaluating Plan performance on continental and regional scales. Specifically, the Plan Committee would like the NSST to immediately address the following.

1. In preparation for the next NAWMP update in 2003, which will focus on the biological foundation for waterfowl conservation activities, evaluate and advise the Plan Committee on the Plan's waterfowl population objectives, species and geographic priorities. In the Update, the Plan Committee would like to be able address Plan population objectives in terms of variable environmental conditions. Also, the Plan Committee would like to define Plan priorities at a scale that would provide species and geographic guidance to Plan partners working at the Joint Venture and BCR level in all three countries.

2. Develop a long-term strategy to monitor and assess the effects of habitat variation on waterfowl population demography at multiple geographic scales. In developing habitat monitoring strategies, the NSST should consider consulting and coordinating with the appropriate representatives of the other 3 bird initiatives cooperating in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative.

The Plan Committee will consult with the 4 Flyway Councils to seek the appropriate level of participation of the Councils in NSST activities, perhaps including permanent membership on the NSST representing each of the 4 Flyways.

The Plan Committee will address the funding and personnel recommendations contained in the original NSST proposal by

documenting existing support available to the NSST and continuing to push for new funding through the 3 federal agencies or other appropriate sources.

The Plan Committee endorses plans for an inaugural meeting of the NSST this fall to begin deliberations on these important issues.